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## **Strategic Growth Council Recommends \$122 million in Affordable, Transit-Friendly Housing Grants and Loans**

*First Round of Shovel Ready, Transformative Investment Projects to Combat Climate Change*

SACRAMENTO—The California Strategic Growth Council today announced this year's recommendations for \$121.9 million in competitive grants and loans to 28 housing and transit-friendly infrastructure projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change. California Climate Investments are programs funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund using proceeds from the state's cap-and-trade auctions.

The recommended funding is part of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, which is being implemented by the Department of Housing and Community Development in coordination with the Strategic Growth Council and California Air Resources Board. The effort provides grants and loans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by supporting more compact, infill development patterns, encouraging active transportation and transit usage, and protecting agricultural land from sprawl development.

"This program is further proof that the Golden State is putting its money where its mouth is when it comes to building a sustainable, low carbon economy that will provide benefits for all Californians," said California Air Resources Board Chairman Mary D. Nichols.

This year's 28 recommended projects leverage nearly six to one in matching funds and will reduce an estimated **723,286** metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions—the equivalent to taking **140,483** cars off the road for one year. A complete list of recommended projects can be found at:

[http://www.sgc.ca.gov/docs/Attachment A AHSC Award Recommendations FINAL.pdf](http://www.sgc.ca.gov/docs/Attachment_A_AHSC_Award_Recommendations_FINAL.pdf).

The recommendations will be the subject of a Council hearing and remain preliminary recommendations until a vote by the council on June 30, 2015.

Fifty-two percent of the recommended projects include transit-oriented developments, which include both housing and transportation capital improvements and at least one transit station or stop served by high-quality transit. More than \$31 million in funding, or approximately 25 percent, supports bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, transit station area improvements, transit service and other connectivity between housing and communities.

These recommended projects, pending approval from the Council, represent dozens of diverse communities from all over the state of California. Seventy-seven percent of this year's recommended grants benefit disadvantaged communities. By law, at least 50 percent of funding must be dedicated to affordable housing and benefit disadvantaged communities. In addition, these recommended projects will support the development of more than 2,000 affordable housing units to support a range of incomes and populations across the state.

The 28 recommended projects, if approved by the Council at its June 30, 2015 meeting, are the first of an ongoing commitment to sustainable development and affordable housing in California. These recommended projects will be considered at the Council's June meeting:

**Who:** Strategic Growth Council Members or Designees  
**What:** June Council Meeting, Consider Approval of Recommended Projects  
**When:** June 30, 2015; 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
**Where:** CalEPA Sierra Hearing Room 1001, I Street Sacramento, CA 95812;  
<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Broadcast/>

In 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed the Budget Act of 2014, which appropriated \$832 million in cap-and-trade auction proceeds to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen communities, and improve quality-of-life. The Governor also signed legislation to continuously appropriate 20 percent of future funding to this Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program. Meanwhile, Caltrans will soon be announcing approximately \$24 million in low-carbon transportation grants to transit operators across California, and later this month the California Transportation Agency will announce recommended recipients for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program.

*The Strategic Growth Council (the Council, or SGC) was created in 2008 by Senate Bill 732 (Steinberg). The SGC brings together agencies and departments within the Business, Consumer Services and Housing; Transportation; Natural Resources; Health and Human Services; Food and Agriculture; and Environmental Protection Agencies, with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and three public members to coordinate activities that support sustainable communities emphasizing strong economies, social equity and environmental stewardship. More information on the SGC can be found at [www.sgc.ca.gov](http://www.sgc.ca.gov). More information on the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program can be found here. [http://www.sgc.ca.gov/s\\_ahscprogram.php](http://www.sgc.ca.gov/s_ahscprogram.php)*

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